

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ST JOH 00014 151719Z

71

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

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FM AMCONSUL ST JOHNS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1322

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS ST JOHNS 0014

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS MARR CA

SUBJECT EDITORIAL ON U.S. BASES IN NEWFOUNDLAND

1. UNDER HEADLINE "U.S. BASES", EDITORIAL IN ST. JOHN'S EVENING TELEGRAM OF 1/14/76 GAVE VALEDICTORY TO U.S. BASE AT GOOSE BAY, MENTIONED THAT IT WOULD HAVE FUTURE U.S. MILITARY COMPLEMENT OF ONLY 10, AND STATED IT IS OPINION OF MANY THOUGHTFUL OBSERVERS THAT, EVEN BEFORE NEWFOUNDLAND'S ENTRY INTO CONFEDERATION WITH CANADA, IT WAS OTTAWA'S INTENTION THAT AMERICANS WOULD BE SENT PACKING FROM NEWFOUNDLAND SOIL. EDITORIAL STATED IT MATTER OF REGRET THAT TERMS OF CONFEDERATION DID NOT STIPULATE THAT BASE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE BETWEEN ST. JOHN'S AND WASHINGTON RATHER THAN OTTAWA AND WASHINGTON; IF SO, NEGOTIATIONS ON WITHDRAWAL WOULD HAVE BEEN LESS TIME-CONSUMING AND MORE FAVORABLE TO THE PROVINCE AND TO BASE EMPLOYEES. MENTION MADE OF FAILURE OF OTTAWA TO ESTABLISH CANADIAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN NEWFOUNDLAND, PROBABLY BECAUSE OF LACK OR POLITICAL CLOUT IN PROVINCE, AND SUGGESTION MADE THAT PRESSURE MIGHT NOW BE APPLIED ON OTTAWA TO STATION ARMY BATTALION OR AIR FORCE SQUADRON AT GOOSE BAY.

2. GRACIOUS AND HEARTWARMING EDITORIAL (FROM USG'S POINT OF VIEW IF NOT FROM GOC'S) CONCLUDED WITH FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH:

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PAGE 02 ST JOH 00014 151719Z

"WE ARE SORRY TO SEE THE AMERICANS GO BUT MANY
HAPPY MEMORIES OF THOSE YEARS WILL BE KEPT ALIVE BY
THOSE PEOPLE FROM THE UNITED STATES AND FROM HERE WHO
FOUND THEY HAD SO MUCH IN COMMON. IT WILL BE A VERY
LONG TIME BEFORE THEY WILL BE KNOWN BY ANY OTHER NAME
THAN THE AMERICAN BASES."
MOORE

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